

Immigration

After the Civil War and through the early years of the twentieth century, a great wave of people came to live in the United States from other countries. Before 1880, most of these immigrants were from northwestern European countries including Ireland, Britain, Germany, and the Scandinavian nations. After 1880, more and more came from southeastern Europe, from such countries as Italy, Greece, Poland, and Russia.

Late in the 1800s, little open land remained for farming, but the rapidly growing cities offered jobs in factories. Poor immigrants lived in crowded conditions, many in poorly built apartment buildings called tenements. They worked for low wages, often in sweatshops. These were small factories where hours were long and the pay low. Most immigrants felt that education was the key to a better life. Immigrant children filled the public schools, and many adults went to school at night.

Many of the immigrants who settled on the West Coast were Asian. Chinese people first arrived in large numbers to prospect for gold in 1849, and, later, to work on the railroads. Chinese workers laid most of the track for the Central Pacific Railroad, which ran from California eastward to Utah, where it joined the Union Pacific to become the first transcontinental railroad—a railroad spanning across the continent. Many Japanese people came to the United States to work on orchards and farms. Both Japanese and Chinese immigrants faced prejudice—negative opinions about them because of their race. In 1882, Congress passed the first of a set of laws to keep Chinese people out of the country. In the 1920s, Congress decided to control all immigration through quotas—limits on the number of immigrants from a region or country. The quotas ended three centuries of unlimited immigration. The quota system based on country of origin was done away with in 1965.



The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, greets immigrants in New York harbor.

Read the sentences about immigration.
Then complete the sentences by filling in each blank.
Use the word list if you need help.

- ★ _____ gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States as a gift in 1886.
- ★ Chinese workers helped build the first _____ railroad.
- ★ In sweatshops, hours were _____.
- ★ The _____ of Liberty stands in New York harbor.
- ★ Congress passed the first _____ to keep Chinese people out of the U.S. in 1882.
- ★ Someone who comes from another country to live permanently in a new country is called an _____.
- ★ Most immigrants came from _____ Europe before 1880.
- ★ A negative opinion of a group of people based on race is known as _____.
- ★ The quota system was designed to _____ all immigration.
- ★ Many Asian immigrants settled on the _____ Coast.

Jane Addams

Jane Addams helped make life better in American cities. She was born into a wealthy family in Cedarville, Illinois. As a young woman, she visited London. In a poor neighborhood there, she visited Toynbee Hall, a "settlement house" where students from Oxford University were helping people. Addams decided to try to do something similar in her home state. She used her own inherited money to start the project.

With a friend, Ellen Gates Starr, she leased a house in a run-down, rat-infested neighborhood in Chicago and called it Hull House. The two friends opened a reading room and a kindergarten. Soon, Hull House was offering cooking, health, and English classes for poor immigrants. Neighborhood people were welcome to come for help in everything from finding a place to live to learning to sew. Addams worked to get the city to improve garbage collection and sewers. Hull House also acted as a center for the arts, with an art gallery and a music school. People paid a small amount for Hull House services. The point was not to give away charity but to help people become independent. By 1895, Addams's idea had been imitated in fifty more settlement houses in American cities. Many such houses exist today.

Addams did more than run Hull House. She worked especially hard for poor children. She helped end child labor in Illinois and worked to create juvenile courts, where children accused of crimes could be treated differently from adults. Addams thought fun was important, too. She sent city children to country summer camps and helped create the first public playground in Chicago.

Read the clues about Jane Addams.
Then complete the puzzle using the word list on the next page.

Across

2. Addams helped set up _____ courts for children.
5. Immigrants could learn this language at Hull House.
6. City where Hull House was founded
8. Hull House had an art _____.
9. Term used for a city social services institution—_____house
11. Students from this university helped run Toynbee Hall.



Jane Addams, a woman who was devoted to helping others, especially poor children.

12. A room for this was one of the first things Addams established at Hull House.

Down

1. What Addams used to pay for Hull House
3. Addams helped improve life in these.
4. Addams established the first of these in Chicago, just for children.
7. First word in name of Addams's settlement house
8. Addams convinced the city to collect this better.
9. Last name of the friend who helped Addams set up Hull House
10. First word in the name of the London house that inspired Addams

